

# URBANSUSTAINABILITY

## forum 2005

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## JAN GEHL

## JUNE 6



The City of Seattle and International  
Sustainable Solutions present

### "Public Spaces, Public Life"

Monday, June 6, 2005, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Seattle Central Library Auditorium

#### Jan Gehl

Professor of Urban Design, School of Architecture at  
Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen  
Founding Partner of Gehl Architects – Urban Quality Consultants

For over 30 years, Danish architect Jan Gehl has been an advocate of turning vehicle-centric cities into pedestrian- and people-friendly cities. With his leadership all 18 public squares in Copenhagen that had been parking lots have been turned back to public squares, and pedestrian streets are thriving for walking, shopping, and people-watching.

Gehl's research in Copenhagen was quickly applied to many other cities in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia and he is now known as the "master of public space." His ideas and approaches to designing public spaces incorporate the cutting edge of technology without losing sight of what best supports and enhances people's experience of everyday life in the public realm.

Gehl earned his B.A. and M.A. in Architecture from the School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 1960 and began practicing as an architect. In 1966 he received a five-year research grant to study the form and use of public space, which spawned his first book, *Life between Buildings*. This and later publications—*Public Spaces - Public Life* and *New Urban Spaces*—have been translated into multiple languages.

Gehl has continued to work at the School of Architecture as lecturer, senior lecturer and professor of urban design since 1971, and was named director of their newly established Center for Public Space Research in 1998. As partner of *Gehl Architects*, he has served as a consultant to city councils and planning departments in many countries. He also delivers lectures and courses at universities and conferences around the world and serves on the editorial board of *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, *Urban Design International*, and *Town Planning & Architecture*.

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